

...and she is not far off. The kind gentle eyes were accorded—she left the room with a light and buoyant step, exclaiming: "Now and then some unaccounted spirit lifts me above the ground with cheerful thought."

"Yes, I presume their does," exclaims Nantle, coming from behind the door, wearing one of her merriest smiles. "Well, Janez, you seem a saint when most you play the devil. Why I never beheld so disponding a countenance, you were the personification of 'Patience on a monument.'"

[To be Continued.]

### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

COLUMBIA, Nov. 23, 1852.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Another year has rolled round, and brought the day when, as Representatives of the people, you have assembled together to deliberate upon the affairs of the Commonwealth. And before I proceed to treat of the subjects which, for the good of our State, I may deem proper to bring to your attention, permit me earnestly to request that you will join me in rendering heartfelt thanks and praise to Almighty God, for the many and undeserved mercies bestowed upon us as a people during the past year. Although some portion of our State has trembled beneath the scourge of the "Pestilence which walketh in darkness and wasteth by noonday," yet we have cause for thankfulness that we have been permitted to enjoy, in other portions, more than a usual degree of health; and although we have been called upon to mourn the devastation and ruin which marked the tracks of the late disastrous and unprecedented flood, yet wherever its desolating effects were not felt, a rich and abundant harvest will reward the labor of the husbandman.

Terrible has been the blow to the prosperity of our State by the destruction of crops and bridges on our water-courses, and as deeply as we sympathize with those of our fellow-citizens who have suffered, yet we are bound to bow submissively to the afflicting rod of our Heavenly Father, and render to Him the homage of grateful hearts for whatever mercies He has seen fit, in His wisdom and goodness, to vouchsafe to us, His dependant creatures.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the same flourishing condition of our different institutions of learning, noticed in my last Annual Message, still continues. The South Carolina College, under the judicious and energetic management of its able President, is still progressing in its onward course of usefulness. To the already able and efficient Professor, Professors, has been added Dr. Reynolds, a young man of high character, devoted piety, and sound education, amply qualified to discharge the duties which he has been appointed to perform.

The last Legislature authorized the Trustees of the South Carolina College to build a Chapel provided they did not call upon it for more than \$10,000. This building, so much needed, has been contracted for by the Trustees at \$22,000, and will be of sufficient size to accommodate 1600 persons. The Trustees have paid \$4,000, (the first instalment,) out of the Tuition Fund, and have contracted to pay \$10,000 after the adjournment of the Legislature, and the balance when the building is completed. You will perceive from this statement that the Legislature will be only called upon for the sum which it authorized the Trustees to use. As no appropriation was made for this purpose and as the Trustees acting under the authority given them by the Legislature, have contracted for the payment of that sum after your adjournment, I recommend that at the present Session you make an appropriation to meet this call.

Before I leave the subject of those your cherished Institutions of learning, the one which has given to your history some of its brightest names, and the other, which, although but in its infancy, begins to show its practical utility, by giving to the State the services of well educated gentlemen, who, but for its munificence, might have grovelled for ever in obscurity—permit me earnestly to invoke for them a continuance of your care and liberality.

I have endeavored, during the past summer, to inform myself thoroughly upon the subject of our Free School System, but from the want of interest generally manifested, I have been able to collect but little information. There seems to be a general belief that it works badly, except in large cities. Conducted as they are in the country, I do not hesitate to pronounce it an almost useless expenditure of the public fund; yet I am far from being willing to recommend a discontinuance of the appropriation. The object of extending the blessings of education to the poor is too just and noble a one to be abandoned. In some of the older States, more densely populated than our own, beneficial results have been seen from it. I am sure the system could be so altered and improved as to work well with us. But to do this, it would require a thorough knowledge of the subject, and it appears to me that the only way in which you could obtain that knowledge, would be to authorize the Governor to appoint a suitable and competent person to travel over the State for a year, and notice the manner of its operations, point out its defects, and suggest improvements. To do this, it must be made the duty of some one to collect this information, and report to you, and

require a strict performance of it at his hands. I feel certain of the propriety of this recommendation, inasmuch as I am sustained in it by high authority. One of my predecessors called upon all the Commissioners of Free Schools to make reports of the condition of them in their respective Districts, and to suggest such alterations and improvements as they deemed necessary. These reports were placed in the hands of Dr. Thornwell and Bishop Elliott, who, after a careful examination of them, recommended the plan which I have done.

The Bank of the State, according to a Report made to me by its President, is in a highly prosperous condition. The capital is \$100,000 more than last year. The capital in use may be set down at

Deduct Fire Loan Bonds	\$3,450,000
Deduct Interest on Fire Loan Bonds	298,500
The profits are	3,152,500
Deduct Interest on Fire Loan Bonds	309,405
Leaves	2,792,725

which is about 9 per cent on its capital. The Charter of this Bank expires in 1856. The short time it has to run renders it proper that you should consider the question of its re-charter at this Session. I think there are many reasons why it should be re-chartered. This Institution has proved itself to be highly useful, and safe as a fiscal agent of the State, and has aided materially in sustaining our people during the severe monetary crisis through which we have passed. As all human institutions are imperfect, no doubt but some instances of mismanagement have occurred in the conduct of its affairs. I believe the only mismanagements that have been complained of is an over indulgence of some of its debtors.—I have not been able to learn, however, that the Bank has sustained any losses from this cause. In some instances a long indulgence has secured the final payment of the debt, and at the same time enabled the creditor to secure a competence to his family, when the sudden calling in of the debts would have resulted in heavy losses to the Bank, and brought ruin and bankruptcy upon the debtor.

It is much more creditable to the management of this Institution than that it should have proved a relentless creditor, by forcing sales of property at a ruinous sacrifice. If any real abuses do exist, they ought most certainly to be reformed. The existence of them in a system is no proof that they are incident to it, or that the system itself is a bad one.

The Charters of many of the private Banks are about to expire, and in all probability application will be made to you for a renewal of them. Whatever may be thought of the policy of the Banking system, were the question of its introduction amongst us for the first time made, one thing is certain, it has so completely interwoven itself into all our habits of business, that its abolition it may be said, would be to annihilate our commerce.

It perhaps would be wise to re-charter them all, yet some check ought to be placed upon them. I know of no other better than a strong Bank of the State.

Another argument in favor of its re-charter, is the amount of taxes it saves to our citizens. During the past year, as I have already stated, its profits have amounted to \$279,725, which, of course, has relieved our people of that amount of taxation. But above all other reasons why you should renew its Charter, the fact that the honor of the State is pledged to it should have greater influence with you than anything else. When the Fire Loan Bonds were negotiated in England by Ex-Governor McDuffie, the profits of the Bank were pledged as a security for the payment.\* Thus it would appear that a refusal to re-charter this Bank, at least until these bonds are liquidated, would involve a violation of the pledges, affect the credit, and tarnish the honor of the State, which every Carolinian should regard as sacred as his own.

Without making a positive recommendation on this subject, I suggest to you the propriety of considering at this time whether it would not be wise, under existing circumstances, to increase the capital of the Bank of the State. The great increase of all kinds of business, caused by our Railroads, calls for additional Banking Capital. Some of the large manufacturing establishments which have recently sprung up amongst us, have been greatly embarrassed during the past summer for the want of Bank accommodation. In fact, the complaint is very general on this subject. No doubt this state of things will produce applications for charters for more Banks. Now, as the Banking system has proved so highly profitable, would it not be wise to appropriate a large portion of it to the State, and thus in a measure free our people from taxation.

But a still stronger reason for an increase, is to give it the power of acting as a check upon the private Banks. They are certainly much to be dreaded, if left entirely uncontrolled. When the condition of the country is prosperous, the temptation to expand their currency, and thus increase their profits is almost irresistible. Such expansions cause all kinds of property to assume a fictitious value, and the whole country run riot in the wildest speculations. Scenes of great distress always follow such periods as these, and is generally hastened and rendered still more terrible by the sudden calling in of the debts, and the contraction of the currency. In fact the value of the property is almost entirely at the mercy of those who control the currency of the country. An expansion always runs it far beyond its value, and a contraction far below. Even the price of our great staple can be effected by the Banks refusing to lend money freely, and thus seriously injure the planter.

There should be some check upon this immense, this fearful power. I know that great fears are entertained as to the political power which a strong Bank of the State would wield—but these are rather imaginary than real, if you will reflect that it will be entirely under the control of the Legislature.—Its officers

\*See Mr. McDuffie's letter to the Governor, Bank Compilation, p. 661.

are elected annually, and of course could be removed if found exerting any influence at variance with the true interests of the people. All the arguments which go to establish our fears that a corrupting influence might be exercised upon the politics of the country, would equally apply to private Banks. If there is any real danger of such influences from moneyed monopolies, it is far better that they should be under the control of the State. The Bank of the State is directly responsible to the Legislature, while the private Banks are perfectly independent of it, from the time they receive their charters, until they expire.

If you, in your wisdom, should deem it inexpedient to increase the capital of the Bank of the State, so as to give it the controlling influence, prudence requires that you should grant no charter to any private Bank with a capital of sufficient size to give such influence to it. No Bank should be chartered with a capital beyond a million of dollars.

The Lunatic Asylum, that charitable Institution so creditable to the humanity of the State, demands your special care and attention. Justice requires that I should again report to you not only the admirable order of its arrangement but the devoted attention of its officers to the delicate and laborious duties they are called upon to perform.

During the past year forty-four (44) new patients have been received, thirty of whom are pay patients, and twenty-eight of those heretofore under treatment have been dismissed, either entirely cured or greatly benefited. The buildings are now not only full but crowded. I was particularly struck with the want of room in the enclosed grounds. They are altogether too much confined either for the comfort of the patients, or the degree of exercise which might conduce to their final cure. The improvements of the age have shown that the original buildings was improperly constructed, but the additions which are hereafter made can be done in accordance with those improvements which will greatly remedy the defect.

If the Legislature will grant a further appropriation, it is proposed to enclose with a wall four acres of the lands belonging to the Asylum on the east side of it, and erect suitable buildings to accommodate the female patients. For this purpose the Regents, Physicians and Superintendant ask an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars. This will enable them better to provide for the reception of pay patients, which will greatly relieve the State of the burthen of the Institution, perhaps to a sufficient extent even to reimburse it for the amount of the appropriation, as for the want of such accommodations, many who are able and willing to pay highest, are carried to other Institutions. All must feel it to be the duty of a State to provide for that unfortunate class of our fellow-creatures who have been deprived of reason. Yet how can we feel that duty with the degree of intensity which their helpless and deplorable situation demands but those who have been brought in contact with them, I trust, will sufferings, you would feel yourselves called upon by every consideration of humanity and christianity, to place within their reach all the means that science has discovered for their cure, and to make your Institution not merely a prison house, but really an Asylum.—Those who have watched this Institution with a paternal care, and have no interest apart from its good, who have carefully considered its wants, ask this appropriation at your hands. I trust you will not refuse it.

A memorial from the Directors of the South Carolina Institute is herewith transmitted, to which I invite your attention. This Institute, established for the encouragement of all the industrial pursuits of the country, was incorporated by act of the Legislature in 1850. One fair was held previous to its incorporation, and two since that time, which have given a most gratifying evidence of its success in promoting the great object for which it was established.—When we reflect how far behind our State has been in the great race of the improvement of the mechanic arts, this exhibition of mechanical skill and ingenuity which the fairs of this Institute have developed, must be a source of pride and satisfaction to every one who has the real interest of his country at heart. They have clearly shown that there was no want of talent or energy on the part of our mechanics, but that it only required some stimulant of this kind to spring it into life. These exhibitions are common to all those States which have been most remarkable for their improvements in the mechanic arts, and have received the particular patronage of their Legislatures.

This Institution has been established by the private enterprise of its founders, to effect a great public good; and while it reflects credit upon their public spirit, deserves your patronage.—Since it was founded, the articles offered for exhibition have been so numerous that no hall can be found of sufficient capacity to contain them. The necessity of building another has induced them to call upon you for aid to construct it. By giving this aid, you adopt the most enlightened plan of encouraging all the industrial pursuits of the country; but more particularly the mechanic arts, which have heretofore been too much neglected. Encourage your own mechanics, by bringing the results of their talent and enterprise into notice, and it will be seen that our State will rival any other in useful improvements. Neglect them, and you will find that they will seek some more favored region, where their skill will be appreciated and rewarded.

The Attorney General, at my request, has drawn up a report on the subject of Prisons and Prison Discipline, to which he has added a report on the Criminal Law. As it contains much valuable information, and many important suggestions, I herewith transmit, and invite your attention to it.

Without pretending to enter fully upon the subject, I will state a few reasons to show there ought to be a change in the management of prisons, and also in the manner of executions. There is no preparation made for the separation of the different classes of prisoners. The youth who for the first time has been convicted of some small offense, and upon whom the punishment of imprisonment might have so salutary an

effect as to bring about his reformation, is left alone to the workings of his own conscience, is confined with the hardened felon, and, of course, subjected to his pernicious influence. The debtor, who is perhaps more unfortunate than criminal, is herded with the felon and murderer. Good sense, as well as justice and good taste, revolt at this state of things.

A change ought to be made in the manner of Executions. They are demoralizing to the community, and fail to produce effect upon it they were intended to produce. A morbid curiosity collects thousands together to witness them, and when the criminal is brought forth for execution, the natural sympathies of the crowd convert him into a hero or martyr.—Thus, much more of pity than terror is inspired by the exhibition. Or where, by frequent recurrences, they become familiar, from some strange perversity of human nature, a vulgar taste is inspired for them, which is revolting to witness. It is a familiar fact, that during the Reign of Terror in France, when the streets of Paris were flowing with the blood of innocent victims, the populace actually cheered for more executions, when each individual was not sure but that his head would be the next to be brought to the guillotine. If it is intended to strike terror to the heart of the multitude, by witnessing executions, the very publicity of them defeats this end. Much more terror would be inspired by the knowledge, that at the tolling of a bell, or some other signal, a human being, within the narrow compass of his cell, was launched into eternity, unsatisfied in his last dark moments by the sympathies of a surrounding multitude.

If the punishment of whipping is to be continued, that, too, were better done in private; I doubt exceedingly, however, the propriety of this mode of punishment under any circumstances. Reformation of the culprit (one of the important ends of punishment) is seldom or ever effected by it. If one spark of good, upon which a hope of reformation can be built, is left in his heart, it is entirely extinguished by the degradation of a public whipping. If he is already hardened in crime, and lost to all sense of shame, no other effect is produced upon him beyond the physical pain inflicted by the lash. I think that the general feeling of our people is decidedly opposed to this mode of punishment; so much so, that it is exceedingly difficult for the Executive to resist the earnest appeals and powerful influences brought to bear upon him either to remit or change it.

But I will not trespass on your time by pursuing the subject further. I merely invite your attention to it. This subject, under the revision of our Criminal Code, requires a more profound consideration than you would probably be able to give it during a short session of the Legislature. I therefore recommend that you appoint, or authorize the Governor to appoint, a Commission, to inquire into the whole subject of our penal system, and to report to you at the next Session. I trust that such changes as may be expedient or necessary. In this manner, all the facts and statistics necessary to form a correct judgment on the subject, will be brought before you by those who are most familiar with them.

By a joint resolution of the last General Assembly, I was requested to communicate with the Governor of Georgia on the subject of the "obstructions to commerce and intercourse between the two States, and to take such other steps as would lead to a full exposition and understanding of the rights of all parties concerned and of a frank and friendly settlement of a whole matter." On the 6th of May I addressed a letter to His Excellency Governor Cobb, in accordance with the spirit of the said joint resolution, and requested the Attorney General to look legal rights of the parties concerned. I have received the correspondence between the Attorney General and the Executive Secretary of Georgia—the statement of the Attorney General, and the result of his legal investigations of the case embodied in the form of a Report, are all herewith transmitted.

I think it however, proper to state, that the question of the boundaries between the two States has lost much of its interest at present, since an arrangement has been made by the President of the South Carolina Railroad Company with the city authorities of Augusta, by which a free passage across the Savannah River is secured to the Company.

I feel it my duty to call your attention to certain proceedings which have grown out of the enforcement of that law of our State, which requires the Sheriff of Charleston to seize and imprison colored Seaman who are brought to that port. You will remember that the British Consul addressed a communication to the Legislature in December 1850 on the subject of a modification of this law. A Committee was appointed by the House and Senate to report upon it at the next session of the Legislature. These Committees reported adverse to any modification. On the 24th of March, 1852, Manuel Pereira was imprisoned in accordance with the law alluded to. The vessel in which he sailed was driven into the port of Charleston in distress. This was looked upon as a favorable case upon which to make an issue, as so strong an element of sympathy was connected with it. Accordingly, a motion was made before Judge Withers for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, which was refused by him. These proceedings were instituted by the British Consul, in accordance with instructions from his Government, to test the constitutionality of the Act.

I think it here proper to state, that Pereira was at perfect liberty to depart at any moment that he could get a vessel to transport him beyond the limits of the State. In truth, in consideration of the fact that his coming into the State was involuntary, the Sheriff of Charleston with his characteristic kindness, procured for him a place in a ship about to sail for Liverpool. Early in April Pereira was actually released and on his way to the ship, having himself signed the shipping articles, when, by interposition of the Brit-

ish Consul he was again consigned to the custody of the Sheriff. A few days after this the British Consul insisted no longer on his detention, but voluntarily paid his passage to New York. This statement of Mr. Yates, together with the letter of the British Consul, are herewith transmitted.

While these proceedings were pending the Sheriff of Charleston had my instructions not to give up the prisoner, even if a writ of Habeas Corpus had been granted. I considered that the "Act of 1844" entitled "An Act more effectually to prevent negroes and other persons of color from entering into the State, and for other purposes," made it my duty to do so. On the 9th of May, Reuben Roberts, a colored seaman, a native of Nassau, arrived on the steamer Clyde, from Baracoa. The Sheriff of Charleston, in conformity with the laws of the State, which has been in force since 1823; arrested and lodged him in the district jail, where he was detained until the 26th of May, when the Clyde being ready to sail Roberts was put on board, and sailed the same day.

On the 9th of June a Writ in Trespass, for Assault and False Imprisonment, from the Federal Court, was served upon Sheriff Yates, laying the damage at \$4000.

The Act of 1844, I take it, was intended to prevent all interference on the part of any power on the face of the earth with the execution of this police regulation, which is so essential to the peace and safety of our community. Had the Legislature which passed it ever dreamed that the Sheriff was to be subjected to the annoyance of being dragged before the Federal Court for doing his duty under a law of the State I am sure it would have provided for his protection. As no such provision has been made for so unexpected a contingency, I recommend that you amend this Act of 1844, that it may meet any case that may arise.

It is certainly wrong to tolerate this interference with the laws enacted for the protection of our institution. In the general distribution of power between the Federal and State Governments, the right to make their own police regulations was clearly reserved to the States. In fact, it is nothing more nor less than the right of self-preservation—a right which is above all Constitutions, and above all laws, and one which never was, nor never will be, abandoned by a people who are worthy to be free. It is a right which has never yet been attempted to be denied to any people, except to us.

The complaint against this law is very strange, and the attempt to bring us in conflict with the General Government on account of it, is still more remarkable, now, so far from its being at variance with the laws of the U. S. it is only requiring the State authorities to enforce an act of Congress approved February 28th, 1803, entitled "An Act to prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States, where by the laws thereof their importation is prohibited." (See 2d Story's Laws U. S., page 886.) By referring to this Act, you will see that the plaintiff in the action alluded to is prohibited by it from entering into the State. I deem it unnecessary to discuss the merits of the case, or the argument, if any doubt should be entertained by you, as to its constitutionality, I beg leave to refer to the able opinion of the Hon. J. McPherson Berrien, delivered at the time he was Attorney General of the United States, which I herewith send you.

On the subject of the modification of this law, I am free to say, that when Her Majesty's Government, through its Consul, made a respectful request to our Legislature to that effect, I was anxious that it should be made. It was with pleasure that I transmitted my first communication to the last Legislature. I would have made a recommendation of its modification a special point in my first Message, but that I thought it indelicate to do so, as the matter was already before the Legislature, and committees had been appointed to report upon it. Another reason for the neglect of this recommendation was the then excited state of party politics, which might have precluded the possibility of a calm consideration of the subject. But for the proceedings instituted in the premises, I would even now recommend a modification of the law so as to require Captains of vessels to confine their colored seamen to their vessels, and to prevent their landing under heavy penalties, for while I think the State has a perfect right to pass whatever laws on this subject it may deem necessary for its safety, yet the spirit of the age requires, that while they should be so formed as to be adequate to our protection, they should be at the same time as little offensive as possible to other nations, with whom we have friendly relations.

But since an attempt has been made to defy our laws, and bring us in conflict with the Federal Government, on a subject upon which we are so justly sensitive, our own self respect demands that we should not abate one jot or tittle of that law, which was enacted to protect us from the influence of ignorant incendiaries.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Railroads of our State are rapidly progressing. The Columbia and Charlotte Railroad, and the King's Mountain Road, are completed. Although heavy damages were sustained by the Greenville Railroad from the late freshet, they will soon be repaired, and under the energetic management of its President and Director, will ere long be completed. The Manchester Road is also progressing rapidly. Already do we see the potent effects of these Roads in developing the resources of the State, and springing into life the energies of the people. The prosperity which follows in their track is no longer problematical. Living witnesses of it are all around us. Yet this grand system, which is to bring wealth and prosperity to us, and energize into action resources which were heretofore dormant, has just begun. If we would realize their full effects, they must be extended, until the rich commerce of the mighty valleys of the West is poured into Charleston.—This can easily be effected, by pursuing a liberal and enlightened policy towards them—a policy worthy of the age in which we live. The golden opportunity to command this trade is within our reach. Charters have been granted by the several States through which it will pass for the Blue Ridge Road, which is to cross

the Rabun Gap, and extend through Clayton and Franklin to Calhoun, where it will intersect the Knoxville and Dalton Road. Through Knoxville a communication will be opened with Cincinnati, (as a Charter has been granted by Tennessee for a Road to the Kentucky line, and a Company is formed in Kentucky to carry it on to Cincinnati.) A road is now in progress to connect Calhoun with Chattanooga. From Chattanooga to Memphis, a road has already been built, and the Chattanooga road connects it with Nashville. A road is also about to be made between Nashville and Cairo. Thus you will perceive, that if the Blue Ridge Road is built, commencing at Anderson Court House and extending to Calhoun, Charleston will be connected by a system of roads, not only with Cincinnati, but with Memphis and Cairo, two important points on the Mississippi river and at a distance from each other equal to the entire breadth of Tennessee, and nearly one third of Kentucky. All the immense trade which the Mississippi and its tributaries bring to this important point, together with that of the fertile regions through which these roads and their numerous feeders pass, must find its outlet through Charleston. At a single glance you must perceive the magnificent prospect it presents. It would be a suicidal policy in our State not to secure this gigantic commerce, now that it is within its reach. But to secure it, the Legislature must subscribe liberally. So great are the advantages it presents, so great the prosperity it will bring, the State could well afford alone to build this only link which is now wanting in this mighty chain. But there is no call for this.—Charleston, I am informed, will subscribe half a million, and even more, if necessary. Enough has already been subscribed in North Carolina to secure the Charter of that State, and Tennessee, by her general system of liberality to her roads, gives \$8000 per mile. As deeply interested as all these States are in this grand scheme, none are as deeply so as South Carolina. I therefore recommend that you subscribe a million dollars to this road, or even more, if it be necessary to complete it. Even if the stock never paid a dollar of interest, it would be a judicious expenditure on the part of the Legislature.

But from the fact that it must inevitably be the great thoroughfare over which the commerce of five or six of the largest States of this Union will pass together with the immense amount of travel, which from its position it will command, there cannot be a doubt that the stock will pay a heavy interest and thus make the investment a profitable one for the State. And if we add to this consideration the fact that it will greatly increase the business, and consequently the profits of the roads already built, in which the State has a large amount of stock, you will see a further inducement for fostering the enterprise.

I trust no sectional feeling will be brought to bear on this question. It is a State matter. It is true that the interest of Charleston will be more promoted than any other section of our State, but the wealth which will be poured into her lap, will be radiated throughout its entire extent.

There is also, I believe, a project on foot to extend the Charlotte Road so as to command a portion of his trade. These two projects cannot interfere with each other, and they ought not to be considered antagonistic, but rather assisting each other in carrying out a grand plan of improvement. When application is made for assistance to extend this road, the same liberality ought to be extended to it. The State cannot expend too much money in the construction of Railroads, providing they are judiciously located, and economically built; for every dollar will be returned four-fold to its citizens by the advantages they afford. Nor will it be necessary to tax the people for this purpose. Borrow the money and the roads themselves will soon pay the interest, and gradually liquidate the debt. By a joint resolution of the last General Assembly, a Commissioner was appointed to inquire into the feasibility of deepening, shortening, or in any other manner improving, the Channel of the Bar and other approaches of the Charleston harbor.

When the Commission held its first meeting, we found that the Chamber of Commerce already had the matter under consideration. I feel it due to that enlightened and public spirited association publicly to acknowledge the kindness and courtesy extended to the Commission, in placing at our disposal the information which it had already collected.

The Chamber of Commerce had memorialized the Congress of the United States, calling its attention to this work as one of national utility and importance, and asking an appropriation for the purpose of carrying it out. The Congress of the United States appropriated \$50,000. The Commission took no part in this memorial, but employed a portion of the fund allowed by the State to defray the expense of a preliminary survey.

The result of this survey has afforded the most gratifying assurance of the practicability of opening the Bar. I must also acknowledge the courtesy and kindness of the officers of the coast survey, who placed at our disposal the maps of the harbor, and co-operated with the Commission in carrying on the Survey. The vast importance of the work to the future prosperity of Charleston, renders it an object of peculiar interest to the State. It is scarcely possible to estimate the amount of expenditure its vast importance would justify. There is, however, no need at present for the State to make any further appropriation for this purpose, as the Federal Government has taken it in hand. It will perhaps, however, be well to continue the present Commission until the work is actually commenced by the Government of the United States.

The report of Prof. Bache, the report of the Commission, together with an account of the expenditure of a portion of the fund appropriated by the Legislature is herewith transmitted.

In pursuance of an act of the last Legislature, the State Convention met at the appointed time. The proceedings of that body, together with the expenses incurred, are herewith transmitted to you in accordance with its request. Perhaps there never was a body assembled under circum-

stances of so much embarrassment, and which called for an exercise of such prudence, sagacity, and devoted patriotism on the part of its members.

The same causes of complaint against the Federal Government, which called it into life, still exist in full force. No evidence had been given that its onward progress towards a consolidated despotism was stayed, or that any barrier had been erected against that life of fanaticism, which, with fearful rapidity was rolling on, threatening the overthrow of the institutions of the South. No security was afforded us that we should not forever remain in a state of vassalage to the Federal Government, paying far beyond our just proportion of its expenses, and receiving far less than our share of its expenditure. Nor do I believe that any change had taken place in the feelings and opinions of the people of our State.

An almost universal feeling of indignation at our wrongs and a burning desire to redress them prevailed. But discord and party strife, which have blasted the success of many a glorious cause, had raised its head among us and paralyzed our strength. One party believed that the time had come when every consideration of policy and duty required that the State should act, even though it should stand alone. Another party believed that the separate action of the State would be ruinous, and that the co-operation of the other Southern States whose interests and destiny were the same as ours, could and would be obtained. No doubt but that both parties were honest in their convictions, that the policy recommended by each would redound to the welfare of our State. The discussion of these conflicting opinions produced the bitterest party feelings.

Amid the convulsive throes of this fierce strife, the question of our wrongs was almost forgotten. Thus did our State present the mournful spectacle of a people whose common wrongs and common dangers should have united in the closest bonds, completely prostrated and paralyzed, not by the force and power of the enemy, but by their own internal strifes. It was too plainly seen that any action under existing circumstances, could end in nothing but self destruction.

Many a bold and gallant heart that had never quailed before the power of the Federal Government, grew faint at the prospect, and shrunk from the thought of civil strife.

The people had, by a large majority, passed their verdict against separate secession, in the election which had been recently held for members to a Southern Convention. Under these circumstances the Convention met. The only course which wisdom and patriotism could suggest, was pursued, namely, to heal the wounds which had lately been inflicted and reunite the State. I can but congratulate you on the happy result. The members of that Convention, actuated by a spirit worthy of the proudest days of our Commonwealth, determined to bury all bitter feelings that had been generated by the contest, and act with an eye single to the good of the State, under the circumstances which then existed. Nor do I think, in effecting this great object, that any sacrifice of principle have ever been held dear amongst us, were not only re-affirmed, but set forth in the solemn form of an O. Dinance.

But sincerely as I feel the gratification of announcing to you that the State has been united, I must call upon you to remember that our safety has not yet been secured. The storm which one day or other is destined to burst upon us is still brewing. The great features of the Southern States to accept it, has been openly violated. In one of the Northern States the Fugitive Slave Law has been nullified, and in all the others it is but a dead letter. A brutal murder of a slaveholder has been the result of an attempt to reclaim a slave under this wretched law.—The spirit of mischief is working with fearful energy. Agitation still goes on with ceaseless activity. Every element which can be made to operate on public opinion, is put in action against our institutions. Even that powerful weapon, the literature of the country, is employed to direct its polished but poisoned shafts against them. It is true that nothing has been done by Congress, since your last session, against which we can complain.

Judging however, from the elements which are at work, and from the history of the past, we cannot hope that this cessation from hostile acts against our institutions will be of long duration. Amid all our prosperity, and the still greater prosperity which we would enjoy if left alone, the heart sickens at the contemplation of that fierce fanaticism which is at work, and which hangs like a pall upon our future. However strong may be my convictions as to the propriety of an attempt to stay the coming storm by the separate action of the State, and however deeply I may deplore the decision to which our people have come upon this subject, God forbid that I should fan into a flame those expiring embers by now recommending it to you. Our destiny, for weal or woe, is connected with the whole South. Further aggressions (which will surely come) will convince our Southern States that the institution upon which not only the prosperity of the South, but Republicanism itself depends, is no longer safe in the Union. Then we may hope that they will rise in the majesty of their strength and spirit, and, in conjunction with us, either force our rights to be respected in the Union, or take our place as a Southern Confederacy amongst the nations of the earth.

In the meantime, let us unite, heart and hand, in carrying out those great schemes of internal improvement, by which the wealth and resources of our State will be developed, and thus give it all the power and strength of which it is capable.

JOHN H. MEANS.

An empty head and a full purse, are more respected than the man of sense, whose purse has been lightened by the unavoidable shafts of misfortune.

If there is any person to whom you feel a dislike, that is the person of whom you ought never to speak.